

August 2, 2004

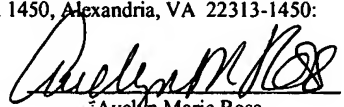
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I, certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450:

August 2, 2004  
Date

  
Avelyn Marie Ross

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: *U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/055,726 "A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PREVENTING NITROGEN INTERFERENCE IN PYRO-ELECTROCHEMICAL METHODS" by John R. Rhodes; Confirmation No. 8318  
Attorney Docket No. SPE503/4-6CIPUS*

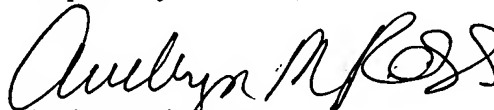
Sir:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced patent application are the following:

1. Amendment and Response to Office Action of April 2, 2004;
2. Credit Card Payment Form; and
3. A return postcard to acknowledge receipt of these documents.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$55.00 as indicated on the enclosed Credit Card Payment Form. If the referenced authorization is inadvertently omitted or deficient, or should an overpayment be included herein, the Commissioner is authorized to appropriately deduct or credit the requisite amount from VINSON & ELKINS L.L.P. Deposit Account No. 22-0365/SPE503/4-6CIPUS.

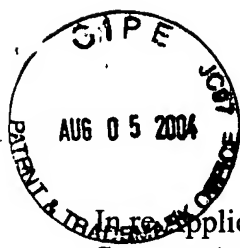
Respectfully submitted,

  
Avelyn Marie Ross  
Reg. No. 51,174

1817:5588

Enclosures

461620\_1.DOC



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Application of:

**Spectro Analytical Instruments**

International Serial No.: 10/055,726

Filing Date: 23 January 2002

For: **A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
PREVENTING NITROGEN  
INTERFERENCE IN PYRO-  
ELECTROCHEMICAL METHODS**

§  
§ Group Art Unit: 1743  
§  
§ Examiner: Yelena G. Gakh  
§  
§ Atty Dkt: SPE503/4-6CIPUS  
§  
§ Confirmation No.: 8318  
§  
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August 2, 2004  
Date

*Avelyn Marie Ross*  
Avelyn Marie Ross

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**  
**TO OFFICE ACTION OF APRIL 2, 2004**

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sirs:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated April 2, 2004, for which the reply date is July 2, 2004. The Commissioner is requested to consider this a petition for a one month extension of time, bringing the date to August 2, 2004. This response is thus believed to be timely filed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$55.00 for a one-month extension of time as indicated on the enclosed Credit Card Payment Form. If the referenced authorization is inadvertently omitted or deficient, or should an overpayment be included herein, the Commissioner is authorized to appropriately deduct or credit the requisite amount from

VINSON & ELKINS L.L.P. Account No. 22-0365/SPE503/4-6CIPUS. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of the claims in view of the amendments and remarks set forth below.

**Amendments to the claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.